

31 DEC 1958

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

- OF THE -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1957.



"HIGH TREES",
CHEPSTOW, MON.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman : Mr. E. Griffiths

Vice-Chairman : Mr. R.A. Newall

Councillors

Mrs. K. Amooore	Mrs. C.L. Morgan
Mr. B. Beale	Mr. A.H. Morgan
Mr. D.T. Coleman	Mr. L. Nevison
Mr. E.M. Davis	Mr. N.B.R. Norton
Mr. F. Dibden	Mr. W.J. Parker
Mr. W.H. Gale	Mr. D.H. Parry
Mr. L.H. Gardner	Mr. D.F.E. Price
Rev. D.E. Gravell	Mr. C.R. Read
Mrs. G.I. Heath	Mr. B.J. Rixon
Col. E.R. Hill	Mr. J. Roberts
Mr. K.D. Hill	Mr. E.G. Saunders
Mr. S.M. Hill	Col. D.R. Stanley
Mr. W.E.G. Hodges	Mr. W.J. Sterry
Mr. L. Hughes	Brig. G.B. Vaughan-Hughes
Mr. A.E. Jones	Mr. W.J. Titley
Mr. L. Jones	Mr. F. Vicarage
Mr. S.G. Jones	Mr. F.C. Walker

Officers of the Council :

Clerk - Mr. T.T. Birbeck, F.A.I.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. E.N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector & Surveyor - Mr. L. Whittingham,
M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., M.A.Rur.S.,
Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector - Mr. D.C. Powell, A.M.I.P.H.E.,
M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert.S.I.B.,
Incorporated Sanitary Engineer. Certified
Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*"High Trees,"
Chepstow.*

To
The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Chepstow.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health
and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ended 31st
December, 1957.

The health of your district was satisfactory.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Whittingham and
Mr. Powell for their help and co-operation during the past year.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	42,459
<u>Population</u>	
Estimated mid-year population	10,740
Number of inhabited houses	3,394
Rateable Value	£78,708
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£305. 1s. 7d.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	100	81	181
Illegitimate	2	1	3

In 1956 the total live births was 200 and in 1953 they were 158. The number of illegitimate live births in 1955 was 10.

Still Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3

In 1950 there were 5 still births.

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year of age			
Legitimate	3	-	3

In 1952, 1954 and 1956 there were 5 deaths of Infants under one year of age.

The following gives a list of infant deaths under one year of age, giving age and cause of death :-

(1) Male - 7 hours

l.a. Erythroblastosis Foetalis

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| (2) Male - 9 hours. | 1.a. Prematurity. |
| (3) Male - 1 day | 1.a. Prematurity. |

DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	60	46	106

In 1956 there were 114 deaths. The Natural Increase (the number of births exceeds the number of deaths) = 80.

There were 7 male deaths attributed to neoplasm of the lung or bronchus in 1956. In the same year there were no deaths attributed to any form of Tuberculosis. Of the total deaths 62 were 70 or over at the time of death. Table I gives a classification of the causes of death and the number attributed to each cause.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Diphtheria

No cases were notified. This is the fifth consecutive year of no cases.

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year 145 children were immunised against Diphtheria. Of this number 97 were born in 1956 and 16 in 1957. Of the 200 children born in 1956, 130 had been immunised against Diphtheria by the end of the year.

Immunisation with the combined vaccine was continued in the Area until the 11th September. After this date the supply of vaccine was limited to the formal toxoid for the immunisation against diphtheria and the single antigen for immunisation against Whooping Cough. There is a risk of provoking poliomyelitis in using antigens in combination, and if the non-alum precipitated antigens are used singly, they may be used throughout the year, subject to the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health.

As in 1956 vaccinations and immunisations were not discontinued during the year owing to the occurrence of Poliomyelitis.

By the end of 1956, 100 of the 175 children born in 1955 were immunised by the end of the year.

Vaccinations (Smallpox)

During the year 105 primary vaccinations against smallpox were carried out. Of this number 50 were babies born in 1957.

Scarlet Fever

2 cases were notified. There were 5 notifications in 1956.

Measles

40 cases were notified. In 1955 there were 65 notifications and 3 in 1956.

During May, a notification was received that a girl aged 5 years of Sudbrook had died in Allt-yr-yn Hospital on the 19:5:1957 and the cause of death was Measles, Encephalitis. The date of onset of the disease was 12:5:1957 and the child was admitted to hospital on the 16:5:57. The mother of this child gave birth to a full-term 6lb. 6ozs. girl on 29:5:1957.

Whooping Cough

There were 4 notifications as against 20 in 1956. There were 28 in 1954.

Poliomyelitis

4 notifications were received and of this number 2 were paralytic and 2 non-paralytic. In 1953, 1954 and 1956, there were no notifications. There were 3 notifications in 1955.

The first notification was of a male, aged 32 years, who lived at Shirenewton and it was received on the 15th July. There was slight paralysis of the Right Arm. A week previous to the notification, the son of the above, who was aged 6 years, was stated to be suffering from "Virus A" Infection.

During August notification was received that 3 boys, aged 15, 14 and 12 years, from Crick Remand Home, had been admitted to Allt-yr-yn Hospital, suffering from Poliomyelitis. Only one case was paralytic. As a result of the occurrence of this infection, no admissions or discharges were made from the Remand Home for 3 weeks from the 20th August.

137 children of the District completed their Poliomyelitis Vaccinations during the year.

Dysentery

During February, the Red Cross opened a Hostel in the curtilage

of the Propellant Factory at Caerwent to accommodate evacuees from Egypt.

Samples of faeces were taken from each evacuee and they were examined for the organisms of the enteric, salmonella or dysentery groups, and for parasitic cysts or ova.

From the faeces of a female age 44 years, a segment of Taenia Saginata was isolated and ova of Taenia Saginata were found to be present.

Shigella Flexneri was isolated from the faeces of a female aged 32 years, and from those of a male aged 17 years.

Shigella Schmitzi was isolated from the faeces of a female aged 13 years.

4 samples of faeces showed cysts of Giardia Lamblia. Two of these were males aged 15 years and one a female aged 9 years.

Tuberculosis

The following were the notifications of primary cases received during the year :-

- (1) Female - 44 years - Lungs
- (2) Female - 51 years - Lungs
- (3) Male - 48 years - Lungs
- (4) Male - 42 years - Kidney
- (5) Male - 63 years - Lungs
- (6) Male - 23 years - Lungs
- (7) Male - 53 years - Lungs

During 1952, 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. In 1953, 1954 and 1956, 7 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. Of the cases notified in 1957, 2 were evacuees from Egypt. There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

DEATHS IN 1957

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-
Measles	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	4
Coronary disease, angina	9	3
Hypertension with heart disease	4	1
Other heart disease	11	13
Other circulatory diseases	-	4
Influenza	1	-
Bronchitis	4	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	2
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	1	-
Homicide and operations of war	1	-
	—	—
ALL CAUSES	60	46
	—	—

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER
THAN TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED - AGE GROUPS :-							Total all ages
	Under 1 year	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 & over	
Diphtheria								
Scarlet Fever			2					2
Cerebro-spinal Fever								
Pneumonia								
Acute Poliomyelitis					2	1	1	4
Enteric Fever								
Encephalitis Lethargica								
Dysentery								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum								
Puerperal Pyrexia								
Measles and German Measles	1	7	12	18	2			40
Whooping Cough		2		1	1			4
Erysipelas								
Other Diseases								
TOTALS	1	9	14	19	5	1	1	50

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector's Annual Report
for the Year 1957

Inspections during the year

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	10
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	196
Bakehouses	...	...	8
Food Inspection	...	...	498
Drainage	...	...	108
Drain Testing	...	...	22
Sewerage	...	...	141
Water Supply	...	...	523
Housing (Complaints)	...	...	96
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	...	...	14
Nuisances	...	...	42
Disinfestation	...	...	4
Shops Acts	...	...	265
Housing Sites	...	...	726
Council House Repairs	...	...	861
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	282
Factories	...	...	135
Building Byelaws	...	...	306
Petrol Licences	...	...	51
Miscellaneous	...	...	626

Work Done

by Owners after Informal Notices :-

Housing Repairs	...	...	51
Drainage Repairs	...	...	16
Nuisances abated	...	...	8

by Owners after Statutory Notices :-

Housing Repairs	...	...	1
Drainage Repairs	...	...	1
Nuisances abated	...	...	3

Notices Served

Informal Under Housing Acts	...	36
Informal Under Public Health Acts	...	39
Statutory Under Housing Acts	...	1
Statutory Under Public Health Acts	...	4

WATER SUPPLY

There are four main sources of water supply in the district as follows :-

1. Chepstow Water Company's water supplied either in their own mains, or those of the Chepstow Rural District Council or, alternatively those of the Monmouthshire County Council.
2. Newport Corporation Water from Wentwood Reservoir supplied through the mains of Magor & St. Mellons Rural District Council as far as the boundary and thence through those of Chepstow Rural District.
3. Chepstow Rural District Council water supplied in their own mains in the form of self contained village schemes usually necessitating pumping and storage arrangements.
4. Old private estate supplies

The maps on the following pages are intended to show the statutory areas of supply for Newport Corporation, Chepstow Water Company and Chepstow Rural District Council and give an indication of the coverage of the district with water mains. The following table shows the type of supply in each Parish :-

Village	Supplier	Source of Supply	Size & Type of Mains	Age in Years	Type of Supply
Mathern	A	Rogerstone Grange	4" asbestos	21	Filtered & Chlorinated
Portskewett	B	Whitemill	2" - 6" asbestos	21	- do -
Caldicot	B	Whitemill	2" - 6" asbestos	21	- do -
Rogiet	D	Wentwood Reservoir	3" - 6" asbestos	21	- do -
Undy	D	Wentwood Reservoir	1½" - 4" asbestos	21	- do -
Caerwent	C	Whitemill	1¼" - 3" asbestos	21	- do -
Shirenewton	B	Whitemill	3" - 4" Cast Iron	4	- do -

MONMOUTH R.D.C.

PONTYPOOL R.D.C.

LLANGWM

DEVAUDEN

TINTERN

KILGWRRWG

C H E P S T O W

SHIRENEWTON.

ST. ARVANS.

W A T E R

C O M P A N Y ' S

CHEPSTOW
U.D.C.

A R E A

MATHERN

CAERWENT

N E W P O R T

C O R P O R A T I O N ' S

A R E A .

P O R T S K E W E T T

LLANVIHANGEL

CALDICOT

MAGOR & ST. MELLON
R. D. C.

UNDY

ROGIET

RIVER SEVERN.

Scale: 1" = 1 mile



Kilgwrrwg	A	Cwm Vagor Springs	1" - 2" galv.iron	48	Untreated
Devauden	A	Fedw Springs	3" asbestos	Pt.28 Pt. 5	- do -
St. Arvans	A	Gorse Wood & Hill Farm springs	3" cast iron	Pt.28 Pt. 4	- do -
Tintern	A	Fairoak springs	2" - 4" cast iron	1	- do -
Itton	E	Chepstow Park Wood Springs	1" - 4" galv.iron	48	- do -

Suppliers :- A = Chepstow Water Company through their own mains.

B = Chepstow Water Company through the mains of
Chepstow R.D.C.

C = Chepstow Water Company through the mains of
Monmouthshire County Council.

D = Newport Corporation supply through the mains of
Chepstow R.D.C.

E = Private Estate Schemes.

The following table shows the number of samples taken during the year :-

Parish	Samples	Raw	Treated	RESULTS	
				Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
St. Arvans	5	5		3	2
Portskewett	4		4	4	
Caerwent	6		6	6	
Caldicot	5		5	5	
Undy	3		3	3	
Rogiet	3		3	3	
Mathern	3		3	3	
Shirenewton	2		2	2	
Kilgwrrwg	2	2		2	
Devauden	2	2		2	
Tintern	6	6		6	
TOTAL	41	15	26	39	2

The estimated population and number of houses in the Statutory Area of supply are 8958 and 2715 respectively. During the year an estimated total of 81,952,500 gallons were consumed in the Rural District made up as follows :-

Purchased from Chepstow Water Co.	49,234,000	S.T. Area
	2,405,000	Shirenewton
Purchased from Magor & St. Mellons R.D.C.	25,784,000	
Purchased from Newport Corporation	3,462,000	
 Chepstow R.D.C. Supplies - Tintern	365,000	
- Kilgwrrwg	155,000	
- Devauden	365,000	
- St. Arvans	182,500.	

The following parts of the district remain dependent upon small private schemes, springs and wells :-

Earlswood, Llangwm, Wolvesnewton, Llansoy, Newchurch, Trellech Grange and The Glyn, Devauden.

It is physically possible to supply these areas with water although undoubted each scheme would be most costly and uneconomic.

The scheme to supply Tintern was completed and although small improvements to existing supplies and minor extensions were carried out the black spots referred to in previous reports still existed. These were at the Brockwells, Caldicot, Leechpool Smallholdings and the Village of Caerwent where domestic users are unable to obtain any water at all at certain times of the day when agricultural consumers on the supply are drawing off. The quality of this water, which is filtered and chlorinated, and supplied from Chepstow Water Company is quite satisfactory but the quantity is so low as to be considered serious from both a Public Health and Fire Fighting point of view.

During the year, negotiations were commenced among all Local Authorities in South Monmouthshire with a view to the re-grouping of those Authorities into a Joint Water Board. Two schemes were considered as follows :-

1. Newport Corporation to extend their undertaking by incorporating Cwmbran, Caerleon and Chepstow U.D.C.'s and Magor and St. Mellons and Chepstow R.D.C.'s.
2. Monmouthshire County Council Joint Board consisting of Abergavenny Borough and R.D.C., Pontypool Urban and R.D.C., Monmouth Borough and R.D.C., Usk, Cwmbran, Caerleon U.D.C.'s Magor & St. Mellons R.D.C., Chepstow Urban and R.D.C.

It was decided to support the former.

Efforts were made to improve the supply of water to the Southern Area of the District by increasing the quantity of water purchased from Newport Corporation to a maximum of 250,000 gallons per day, such water to be piped from the Corporation's main at Penhow to Cas Troggy Bridge, Caerwent either through a 6" main provided by the Council or a 9" main provided by the Council and the Admiralty for their joint use. Although discussions were held throughout the year no satisfactory progress could be reported in the matter.

The problem of improving supplies in the Northern Area in general and Earlswood in particular was considered and a meeting was held at the Welsh Board of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government when the Council were told that the proposed scheme to supply 58 premises (including 30 farms and holdings) at a cost of £30,930, was too costly and reductions would have to be made. The Council considered these to be undesirable and decided to press for the implementation of the original scheme.

An approach was made by the Agent to the Itton Estate asking the Council to take over the Undertaking of the private water supply serving premises in the Itton and Howick area. Owing to doubts as to the purity of the supply, consideration was deferred.

In accordance with a request from the Ministry, the Council decided to introduce new Byelaws relating to the prevention of waste water incorporating amendments relating to the protection of fittings from frost.

HOUSING

The following Table shows how the population of the district is divided over the various Parishes :-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Area</u> (acres)	<u>Population</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Council</u> <u>Houses</u>
Undy	1726	620	166	19
Rogiet	2312	1120	245	128
Caldicot	1975	2710	446	504
Portskewett	1101	1220	284	82
Mathern	3890	800	198	22
St. Arvans	4203	590	145	30
Tintern	4399	682	172	28
Devauden	7242	580	147	32
Kilgerrwg	666	78	21	-
Llangwm	4546	410	108	-
Shirenewton	5696	620	216	9
Caerwent	4803	1310	283	109

There were no Council houses built during the year owing to the removal of the subsidy, but 7 private dwellings were erected. At the end of the year, 352 applicants still remained on the Council's files. There were three undertakings given in respect of houses which were unfit for human habitation and one house was demolished in default of an Undertaking being broken. Many houses which were scheduled for Demolition have been improved over the years as a result of informal talks and if only a piped water supply could be provided in the Northern Area, it is believed that many more owners would rescue their cottages from the fate of being closed or demolished. At the present time it is useless for them to improve them structurally without providing modern amenities. The Council purchased one cottage by agreement during the latter part of the year as an experiment to show how such properties could be improved, but the work was not commenced before the end of the year. The intention was to repair the cottage which had been sadly neglected and provide a bathroom, hot water system etc. The cottage was mortgaged and the owner living on National Assistance so that no progress could be made by her to improve the dwelling and the Council were faced with the alternative of carrying out the work in default and failing to recover the cost, or purchasing the property and improving it themselves.

The Council suspended the operation of the Improvement Grant system owing to the increase in the Bank Rate but prior to this 18 grants had been made to the value of £4938. This made the total number of grants since the inception of the scheme to 42 and £13774.

A Problem Families Committee consisting of representatives from many organisations in the County was called to consider the case of an aged mother and daughter living in a dilapidated railway coach at Highmoor Hill. The mother had been admitted to hospital suffering from malnutrition but had subsequently been discharged. The living conditions were indescribably bad in the coach and the Council were concerned about the aged mother, particularly, living in such conditions during another winter. It was hoped that the Problem Families Committee could offer some constructive advice as to the best course of action in this difficult matter, bearing in mind also that the Council had no accommodation to offer. The medical evidence showed that the old lady was incapable of looking after herself and that the best course was for her to enter a local hospital for accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948. It must be said that this Committee was not a great success. Eventually, after several weeks, the Medical Officer of Health secured a Court Order for the old lady to be temporarily removed to Part III accommodation until such time as the Council were able to provide housing accommodation. The daughter was left in the railway coach.

In February, an evacuee camp was opened in the hatted quarters at the Royal Naval Propellant Factory, Dinham to receive persons displaced by the evacuation of Egypt following the Suez invasion. These huts were

formerly occupied by Factory personnel but had been previously vacated and closed. 135 such refugees were received and they presented many problems not the least of which was the language difficulty. Certain alterations had to be carried out in order to secure proper separation of the sexes, and to segregate the food handling staff in the canteens from the refugees themselves. The Medical Officer of Health has already referred to certain aspects of their life at Dinham and it was also necessary to pay constant attention to food hygiene principles and arrange extra Refuse Collection to deal with this sudden influx. They were still at Dinham at the end of the year,

There were 12 caravans licensed during the year and 9 of these were for permanent living accommodation. They were kept in a very good condition and no nuisance was observed from any of them. One site for 24 caravans was also licensed in the district for casual users but it was not occupied at all during the twelve months. It is noted that some authorities refer to these caravans as a "sub-standard form of accommodation" but having regard to the floor area of a large number of them, the expensive fittings and modern amenities, one is inclined to the view that many of them are a considerable improvement upon many rural dwellings particularly for childless couples. It was hoped to negotiate with the Admiralty for a caravan site at Dinham within the curtilage of the R.N.P.F. for persons displaced from the hutted quarters previously referred to but this failed and they were left to make individual arrangements. In any case, the number of applicants for licences was considerably less than that previously envisaged.

SEWERAGE

The picture remains the same as it was during the previous year i.e. no new schemes were commenced although the possibility of starting at Devauden, Tintern and Caldicot was again discussed. It will be remembered that the only areas in the district served with sewers are parts of Rogiet, Caldicot and the whole of Sudbrook. The former two schemes were constructed by the Council in 1924 whereas the system at Sudbrook was installed by the Great Western Railway Company at the time of the building of the Severn Tunnel in 1876. In this system there are four different outfalls whilst there is a single 18" outfall known as Dowle's Drain serving Caldicot and Rogiet jointly. In each case crude sewage is discharged into the River Severn. The lower portion of the Rogiet and Caldicot System becomes surcharged during times of high tide with the consequence that nuisance is often experienced at inspection chambers and manholes situated in private gardens where sewage backs up the drains and overflows onto the gardens. A considerable part of the sewer serving Rogiet is either near the surface of the ground or above ground level and many leaking joints are experienced from time to time on this length which passes through agricultural land. As the owner of the field also possesses a Tuberculin Tested Herd of cattle, he is not able to allow these animals to graze in the fields in which the sewer is

situated and the Council must be thankful that he is so tolerant.

The Caldicot sewer served the part of the Village in which it is situated quite adequately during normal weather but as the system is partially combined (i.e. foul and storm water discharge into it) the position is more serious in times of heavy rain and particularly in heavy thunderstorms when the electrically operated pumps cease to function quite often. Storm water from the West End of Caldicot and the Housing Estate is taken separately by means of a 21" diameter sewer to a culvert across the railway line to discharge into the reens serving the River Severn.

A proposal was considered to provide a small individual sewage disposal scheme for 20 premises at Pill Row, Caldicot, but it was decided that there were too many difficulties to warrant such a system and that it should be included in the comprehensive scheme.

The answer to the whole problem in this area is the combined Portskewett, Caldicot and Rogiet scheme which will improve existing conditions and also cater for other properties now using cesspools. This should proceed without further delay.

The question of providing Devauden with a new scheme was discussed and this would abate the existing nuisance being caused by the Council themselves allowing a cesspool overflow from their own houses. During the year the Scheme was prepared and it is hoped that a start would be made during 1958. The estimated cost was £7,500 to serve 45 properties.

Undy is still without a Sewerage System and looks likely to remain so. A large portion of the Village along the main Newport Road including part of Vinegar Hill, the Council Estate and houses in the region of the School could be economically served although pumping arrangements would be required. It seems that until the Parish of Magor situated in an adjoining Authority decide to install their system, (in which the proposed sewage disposal works to serve both parishes would be sited) Undy will be deprived of their scheme.

Attention is again drawn to the fact that St. Arvans could be economically sewered and 75 premises would be easily connected. Part of the Village discharge their sewage and waste water at the present time into an old stone culvert which terminates at a "swallow hole" near a fault in the strata and thus disappears. This a deplorable arrangement and should not be allowed to continue. The remainder of the Village is served with cesspool, earth and pail closets so that it seems that this scheme is long overdue.

No satisfactory progress could be reported on the scheme to serve Tintern which is particularly badly off for disposal arrangements. The new water scheme has increased the urgency of the demand for a sewage disposal system as the problem of disposing waste water on small gardens is indeed an acute one, particularly during the summer.

The original estimated cost of £47,000 to serve 120 premises has now probably increased and will keep on doing so. This is the worst village in the Rural District for sanitary arrangements. Pail closets are emptied in streams joining the River Wye and water closets are connected directly to the River. It is difficult to locate the offenders and in the case of the drains discharging into the River, it is an impossibility, owing to the physical features of the land, to make alternative arrangements.

As was intimated in the previous year's report, the Cesspool Emptying Scheme and Refuse Collection Service were becoming overloaded and in June a new lorry was purchased so that both services could operate full time. The previous arrangement was a detachable cab with two trailers, one being a cesspool emptying tank and the other a refuse loader. By purchasing a second cab, each trailer could be put on the road at the same time. During the year 618 cesspools were emptied at an average cost of £2. 15s. Od., per pit. 442 persons applied for the service which allows for two free emptyings per year and additional emptyings at 10s. Od. each. Business premises are emptied at the rate of £1. per hour.

RODENT CONTROL

The Rodent Operative inspected 780 private dwellings, 462 farms and 5 business premises. The following table is an indication of the work involved :-

Month	Private Dwellings	Sewers	Local Authorities Premises
January	63	16 M.H's.	2
February	52	-	2
March	64	-	2
April	69	-	2
May	51	-	2
June	64	-	2
July	71	-	2
August	72	67 M.H's.	2
September	62	-	2
October	72	-	2
November	68	-	2
December	62	-	2

Again it can be reported that there were no major infestations, and this is an indication of how well the system of inspection works. The sewers were treated twice during the year at Caldicot, Rogiet and Sudbrook and there was no major infestation. Owing to the badly constructed sewers and manholes on the new housing estate, rats again emerged from the sewer into Council tenant's gardens and this presented a problem in the question of tracing the run, excavating for the sewer, and repairing the defective length. The process of building in baiting trays into the manholes continued as these were omitted at the time of construction.

Rick Surveys were again carried out as usual and mice were found to predominate. The local Threshing Contractors were watched during their work to ensure that the Threshing Regulations were operated and no difficulties were experienced.

Sewer outfalls, Refuse Tips and banks of streams were inspected and baited and showed a small rat population which was eventually eliminated. As always, cordial relations were maintained with the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who gave much helpful and useful advice during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION

As previously mentioned, the Refuse Collection was amended to give a full weekly service with two vehicles to all parts of the district. Each parish is now adequately served and the scattered rural areas are put on the same basis as the more urbanised parishes in the Severn Tunnel Area.

Informal action was again taken in the case of 26 householders who possessed inadequate dustbins and in each case the co-operation of the persons concerned was experienced. Apart from the hygienic aspect of a properly constructed bin with closely fitting cover, it should be appreciated that the job of a Refuse Loader in ideal conditions is not the most congenial, so that when a mass of foul refuse exposed to wet weather is put out for collection in an oversize receptacle without handles, the task of emptying it is very trying indeed.

The litter bins which had been placed throughout the district were emptied regularly and proved a useful asset in keeping the district tidy. The Highway Authority also use this system to a limited extent and it is certainly an inexpensive method of achieving something of considerable public health and aesthetic value. The number of bins will be gradually increased as it is seen that the demand exists.

The cost of Refuse Collection for the year was £4245, as compared with £2991 and £2968 for the previous two years. The collection service operates on five days of the week whilst Saturday morning is spent on maintenance of the vehicles by the drivers, and on covering the Refuse and tidying the Tips by the Loaders. Covering material in the form

of ashes is obtained and used regularly. No separate staff are employed on the tips and the responsibility for this rests with the loaders themselves through their chargehand. The tips are sprayed throughout the summer months with Tip dressing to eliminate the nuisance from flies and the Rodent Operative visits them at least twice per month.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Council are responsible for the operation of Section 7 of the Act relating to sanitary conveniences in the case of all factories but in those not employing mechanical power, they are also responsible for Sections 1,2,3,4,5,6 & 7 relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors. They are also responsible for issuing Certificates as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire and in this connection they operate in conjunction with the County Fire Brigade whose Fire Prevention Officer carries out joint inspections with the Council's Officer and is better able, with his specialist knowledge, to give an opinion as to the suitability of the factory for escape purposes.

There were 40 factories within the district and there were again no complaints from the Factory Inspector. The following table gives an indication of the number and type of inspections carried out during the year:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	15	62	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	25	73	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority- (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	40	135	-	-

	Number of cases in which defects were -				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	6	6	-	-	-
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).					
TOTAL	12	12	-	-	-

FOOD

The following table shows the number and type of food premises in the district and the inspections made during the year :-

Premises	Number	Inspections
Dairies	4	10
Bakehouses	2	8
Butchers	6	32
Fish & Fruit Premises	4	12
Fried Fish Shops	1	6
Food Vehicles	5	12
Ice Cream Premises	19	39
Provision Shops	36	143
Restaurants & Kitchens	29	136

Of the premises shown in the previous table 19 are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the storage and sale of icecream and there were no persons registered for the manufacture and sale of sausages, pickled or preserved foods. Inspections were made and in each case proved satisfactory. The four dairies were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-1954 and these too were satisfactory. In each case milk is purchased in bulk from suppliers situated in adjoining areas and is merely transferred at the dairies in question. In addition to the premises referred to for the storage and sale of icecream there were 6 hotels which are exempt from the registration provisions as they cater for their own residents. Nevertheless they were inspected and found satisfactory. There are no manufacturers of icecream in the district and in each case a pre-packed product is sold. One new premises was registered.

There were only 26 tins of food condemned during the year and this contrasts sharply with several years ago when the average number of tins disposed of was in the region of 300. They were disposed of at the Portskewett Refuse Tip.

Routine visits were carried out to all food premises in the district in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Food Hygiene Regulations and Informal Action was taken in respect of 14 of them. These were principally offences by employees such as dirty clothing and equipment although in one case, structural alterations were carried out necessitating improved lighting arrangements, new floor, clothes locker and equipment. This was done immediately the matter was brought to the notice of the occupier and generally speaking, co-operation was experienced throughout the trade. Structural alterations in three cases were carried out voluntarily in an effort to improve kitchen facilities and this Authority was consulted as to the advisability of different methods of doing this.

Both bakehouses were cleansed during the year as a result of informal requests and in one case, a new wash-hand basin was installed. These are the only two small bakehouses operating within the district at the present time as the others have been absorbed by the larger organisations.

There is no public slaughterhouse within the district and only one small private slaughterhouse used jointly by two butchers at Caldicot. Slaughtering only occurs on one day per week and a regular collection of skins and waste products is undertaken either on the same day or the following day so that no nuisance arises. Special bins are provided and the standard of cleanliness of the premises and the persons using it is very high. The slaughterhouse itself is not a good structure, but it is not owned by the butcher who is licensed and he is reluctant to spend a considerable amount of money on it in one large improvement.

In view of the appreciation of hygienic principles observed by the persons using it, there appears no danger at the present time although the position will be closely watched. Only small animals are killed as will be

seen from the following table :-

Animals killed	Number	Condemned	
		Organs	Reason
Sheep and Lambs	628	22 Livers	Cirrhosis
Calves	4	-	-
Pigs	14		

The transport of meat is undertaken by private contractors operating from adjoining districts and again the vehicles and handlers were found to be satisfactory. Considerable improvement has been noted in this direction since the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Generally speaking a fair standard of cleanliness was observed at all food premises in the district and it is hoped that this will be maintained. It does seem that persons engaged in this business are now becoming more aware of their responsibilities and enforcement appears now to be the exception rather than the rule.

